

CONGRESSWOMAN

Carolyn McCarthy

Fighting for LI Workers - 107th Congress

As a member of the House Education Committee and the Employee-Employer Subcommittee, Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy is fighting hard to protect Long Island workers.

PROTECTING LONG ISLAND WORKERS

- √ Congresswoman McCarthy voted against legislation (**H.RES.79**), which aims to prevent the government from protecting workers against ergonomic injuries and illnesses, the most common serious health risk faced by workers.
- √ Congresswoman McCarthy knows that deplorable conditions still exist in the American workplace. She is determined to shut down sweatshops, which is why she supports legislation that provides for legal accountability for sweatshop conditions in the garment industry.

FIGHTING FOR A LIVEABLE WAGE

- √ Congresswoman McCarthy is committed to ensuring that everyone receives a livable wage for their work. She supports raising the minimum wage, giving all Americans the opportunity to benefit from the economic boom..
- √ **H.R. 917, Federal Living Wage Responsibility Act**, provides livable wages for federal government workers and workers hired under federal contracts.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Congresswoman McCarthy knows all too well that women in the workforce are still underpaid in comparison to their male counterparts. It is due to her commitment to change this disparity that she supports:

- √ **H.R. 781, Paycheck Fairness Act**, provides more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex.
- √ **H.R. 2692, Employee Non-Discrimination Act**, prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.



PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF OUR PUBLIC SAFETY WORKERS

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy believes that those who dedicate their lives to keeping our neighborhoods safe should be able to negotiate for the best pay and benefits. She is committed to passing **H.R. 1475, the *Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act***, which provides collective bargaining rights for state-employed public-safety officers.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy supports legislation that increases the mandatory retirement age for some federal law enforcement officers from 57 to 60 years.

PROTECTING STATE EMPLOYEES

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy believes that state employees should be protected under the law to the same extent as their counterparts in the federal government. She supports **H.R. 2218, the *Fairness for State and Local Workers Act***, which provides coverage for employees of states and political subdivisions of states.

ASSIST DISPLACED WORKERS, VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy helped pass legislation (**H.R.2882**) that expedites payment of certain benefits for a public safety officer who was killed or suffered a catastrophic injury sustained in the line of duty in connection with the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.
- ✓ In order to assist those who were separated from employment as a result of reductions in service by air carriers, and closures of airports, caused by terrorist actions or security measures, Congresswoman McCarthy supports legislation (**H.R. 2955 *Airline Employees Financial Assistance bill***) that provides certain benefits (*employment services, job training, and readjustment allowances*) to eligible workers meeting certain eligibility requirements.
- ✓ Rebuilding New York is extremely important for attracting and creating new jobs. That is why Congresswoman McCarthy supports legislation (**H.R. 3402 *New York Recovery From Terrorism Act of 2001*** & **H.R. 3373 *New York Liberty Zone Tax Relief Act of 2001***) that provides tax incentives for business to rebuild in the areas damaged by the September 11th terrorist attacks.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy helped pass legislation (**H.R. 622 *Economic Security and Worker Assistance Act of 2002***) that extends unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks. This legislation also provides a tax credit to offset the cost of health insurance.
- ✓ Although legislation was passed providing a tax credit to offset the cost of health insurance, Congresswoman McCarthy fought for legislation that pays up to 75 percent of an unemployed worker's health insurance premium under COBRA for a period of twelve months. Recognizing that some workers do not qualify for COBRA, the Congresswoman also favors assistance to states to cover the cost of medical coverage under Medicaid.

- ✓ Many people have lost their jobs and need training to reenter the job market. That is why Congresswoman McCarthy supports providing \$5 billion in grants to states for retraining assistance.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy also supports, **H.R. 3130, *Technology Talent Act of 2001***, increases technically trained workforce.

PROTECTING OUR PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Business and industry, and the jobs they create, are the driving forces of our economy, and we need policies that promote growth and prosperity. However, we must also take steps that will protect pensions and retirement savings. That is why Congresswoman McCarthy supports measures that allow workers and shareholders to be better informed about their own money and future, while at the same time, holding companies accountable.

That's why Congresswoman McCarthy voted against **H.R. 4737, the "so called" Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act**. This Bill required welfare parents to work with out giving them the child care they desperately need to keep their jobs. It's just common sense that if a woman on welfare finds a job, she needs a safe place for her children to go while she is at work. During debate on the bill in the Congresswoman's Education and Workforce Committee, Congresswoman McCarthy offered an amendment to increase the childcare provisions by almost \$7 billion. Unfortunately, it was defeated by the Republicans on the Committee. In addition Congresswoman McCarthy believes in the following:

More Disclosure and Diversification

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy believes all participants in a company's retirement plan investing employees funds are entitled to full and truthful disclosure. This includes disclosure about any stock of the company, as well as the fund's overall solvency.
- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy also supports plans that allow employees to invest their contributions in whatever way they choose and also be permitted to receive professional investment advice. However, it is also important to ensure a proper separation between auditors of retirement plans and consulting services the employer uses.

More Protections

- ✓ The Congresswoman supports legislation that requires advance notice of at least 30 days to every shareholder of a company's stock of any lockdown period imposed by the company.

More Accountability

- ✓ Congresswoman McCarthy strongly believes the retirement plan and the employer must be accountable to employees for the solvency for the fund. To this end, employees at all levels should be represented on any trustee board that oversees the retirement fund.

In addition, Congresswoman McCarthy also supports:

- ✓ **H.R. 848, Social Security Benefits Restoration Act**, eliminates the provision that reduces primary insurance amounts for individuals receiving pensions from non-covered employment.

- √ **H.R. 1332, Retiree Health Benefits Security Act**, provides emergency protection for retiree health benefits.
- √ **H.R. 1360**, a bill to ensure project labor agreements are permitted in certain circumstances.
- √ **H.R. 3840, Inside Stock Sales Employee Notification Act of 2002**, provides for timely notification of plan participants and beneficiaries who individual accounts hold employer securities of insider trading in employer securities.
- √ **H.R. 4646, Steel Industry Legacy Relief Act of 2002**, remedies certain effects of injurious steel imports by protecting benefits of steel industry retirees and encouraging the strengthening of the American Steel industry.